

JAN 11 1972

Friday, Jan. 7, 1972

Pastor Fjellman,

Enclosed is a copy of an announcement that I shall give after my sermon on January 9, 1972.

"After a long period of prayerful soul-searching which was crystallized as the result of a meeting this past week, I have decided to tender -- at our annual meeting--my resignation as your pastor---to be effective 90 days from said meeting. I have been aware--for more than a year--that things have not gone well in many aspects of our congregational life. In some of the things discussed, both you & I could benefit by the committee's demand that I use my time more efficiently in the parish---even if that means missing District or Synod meetings. The committee's "tone" here was not easy to take as it was that of a "straw-boss" toward one of his workers. The 4th point discussed with your pastor was that his sermons were not sufficiently expositions of the Bible texts for the day. I have felt I was reaching my parish with my sermons & that these sermons were sincere Lutheran attempts to make the Biblical truths living & relevant to our daily life here and now. Apparently I have not succeeded. Hence the decision.

"Please do not line up for or against the pastor. Rather, join one another as brothers standing together ---committed to the furtherance of God's Kingdom through the family, the congregation."

Chris Bruland, Pastor---Chinook &
Naselle Lutheran Churches.

Dr. Fjellman,
I shall follow through to you
concerning the above immediately
the Annual meetings which are
JAN 7-11 - CHINOOK
JAN - 16 - NASELLE
Chris

January 17, 1972

The Rev. Chris Bruland
P.O. Box 160
Chinook, Washington 98614

Dear Chris

I was surprised to receive the copy of your letter as well as your own personal note regarding your resignation from Chinook and Naselle Lutheran Churches.

Have you another call that you are accepting? In your letter of resignation, you spoke about a committee you met with. Was this a committee from both congregations or just from the Chinook congregation? I certainly have heard nothing about your being unsatisfactory with our people at Naselle. I will be very anxious to talk with you about your plans for the future.

The Lord be with you.

A. G. Fjellman

AGF:rl

TUES. - JAN - 25 - 1972

JAN 27 1972

Dr. FJELLMAN

Dr. Solberg,

as I have been having a "hurt-in-every-
- inch - of - my - body - ~~to~~ VIRUS" for 10 days -- I have
been "laying - pretty - low." As I have not heard a
word from Dr. Solberg -- I can't help but
be wondering if you're O.K. - Dr. Solberg.

In assuming you received my brief
note saying I was resigning both my
ALC - Chinook - Church & my LCA Naselle Church.
I resigned which shall be effective the Sunday
after Easter.

Last Fall I told Dr. Solberg -- I would
not resign even though things were not
going well -- especially in Chinook. However,
after I kept urging the 12 - CH. - Councils to
talk their common purposes over "once - in -
- awhile" -- they appointed a Committee
of 4 - from each Church to meet with me.
Two of the 4 - from Chinook at the requested
meeting decided to blame all of the Chinook
Church problems on me & then the 8 - gave
me a "schedule of orders" that showed neither
trust, love, or any real respect - for me &
the meaning of "Pastor" in Lutheran Churches.
after making the announcement that I would
resign at the annual meetings (AFTER MY SERMONS THE
NEXT SUNDAY) - 5 of the 8 - apologized for the
meeting "TAKING - THE - TURN - IT - 180".

I resigned but do not intend to
leave the "Lutheran" ministry. But, I don't
intend to be "saged" up in a box in the future.
Though Chinook has some "committed Christians"
-- it is not a "CH. - FAMILY" but individuals in a
building. Naselle's "old-folks" have been a real
blessing to me - as-a-man, because they have
accepted me & have "liked" me as I have "liked" them.
at the annual meeting the "organizational-leaders"
of Naselle - asked that they petition to join the ALC
(to relieve the pastor of unnecessary meetings) IT PASSED - UN-OPPOSED.

2 I said nothing at the Annual meeting but asked
the Council after the Ch. - meeting - - - if it - the JAN 27 1972
request to "transfer" into the AIC had any real
"Church" intent as Naselle had no intention of
becoming "one" PARISH with Chenoak.

I firmly believe Naselle has grown in
Pastor - lay - "trust", & respect. I believe Naselle's
Christian "joy" & "meaning" has grown. I do
not believe my serving Naselle has been a
"waste-of-time" for giving or aid. Respect for the
"Luth. - Pastor" has grown in Naselle amongst the
"teen-agers" & young adults. The Pastor is thought of
"as-a-human-being" & Pastor. I cannot say the same
about Chenoak.

as you two look & think about a "new"
Pastor for Chenoak & Naselle - please remember
that a Pastor here needs more than a living salary,
needs more than recreational "off-time" fishing or
hunting, - - - needs the opportunity to be respected as a
"SIMPLE - HUMAN - BEING - ON - HIS - CALLING" & not always
having - to - "prove - this - or - that". I respect both of you.
my people here have "great needs" & much of it is not "st. born" over

by their "leaders".

I've had to "pay-my-own-way" to all
Chinook - Conference & District meetings &
decided last week not to attend the
Inter-Synodical Pastors meeting next week.
(Besides my giving, Chinook has had no
years income of about \$8000 since I came
& years ago.)

If at all possible - however - I would
like to visit with the 2 of you
in the not-too-distant future.

Chris Paulson -
WASCO-CHINOOK.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church

"Serving Lutherans on the Peninsula"

Chinook, Washington

FEB -14-72

(NOTES IN AEO
WRITTEN THURSDAY-FEB-17)

Dr. Solberg,

I am concerned. You have answered neither of the two brief notes that I sent you since I resigned from my Chinook congregation a month ago. I know you are busy---but I also know that busy men usually try to talk to men in their organization if the other man really wants to talk to them. I resigned from Chinook & you can ignore me as you wish. But the Church did not resign.

I did not resign from Chinook out of anger. I resigned because my Service here is not bringing results & I thought & think the Church to be more important than I. No, I would not have been asked to resign but the Chinook Church needs a miracle & I don't seem to be the one to bring it to them.

My request ^{is for} two hours of your time, which, you determine the when & the where. I request the time for the Chinook Church needs. My needs can come later. My concerns about the Chinook Church centers in the following:

- 1, We have had no Missouri Lutheran Church in our area. Though planned before, the week I resigned Pastor James Rehly, Grace Lutheran Church(M.O.) Longview, Washington, began a Mission Church in the center of our Peninsula area. ~~FROM~~ Chinook Lutheran's most active Christians(if I may judge them in this way) live close to the proposed Church. This would be 10 miles from Chinook.
- 2, The Naselle Lutheran Church(LCA) voted to "transfer" from the L.C.A. to the A.L.C. (The organizational Naselle leaders are former ALC people) Yet, Naselle wants no merger of the Naselle & Chinook Lutheran Churches. They are 17 miles apart & of different national background & work. (People-to-people 15-55-MILES)
 - a, This would be OK--but what if the Chinook Lutheran Church "goes under"? (It could because the Chinook Church doesn't have the strong, meaningful religious strength the Naselle Church has. This is my judgment but one with which there would be little argument.)
- 3, The leaders of the Chinook residents in the Chinook Lutheran Church believe the main purpose of the Church is to make available a "Sunday School--which should be free to "go-its-own-way". (CHINOOK LUTH. IS STILL BASICALLY A COMMUNITY CHURCH)
 - a, My being both in the Pulpit in Chinook & Naselle has allowed this attitude to get stronger.
 - a, I've suggested mid-week Sunday Schools but this idea is, so far, not acceptable. My other suggestion: "stay(the Pastor)a full Sunday morning in each Church twice each year"---has not been of much help.
 - b, Chinook has had the same S.School Supt. since before the Church was re-activated in 1959. She does a good job but won't attend Parish-Ed meetings & the S.S. is "hers".

(The Community Church - Lutheran Church concept is basically the difficulty in Chinook, but Sun-schools is easier to "talk-about" in a "discussion" while the "meaning & direction" of "Church" is more difficult.

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- 4, The "giving" in the Chinook Church for the past 10 years has not been enough to adequately pay a Pastor & have any "reasonable" Church program.
- a, This "lack of funds" is one of the basic reasons I organized the plan of "sharing the local Pastor" with the LCA Church in Naselle 3½ years ago.

- 5, For the past two generations---the Chinook Church(much of the time--no resident Pastor & no Synod affiliation) has tried to "get along" with this approach: "individuals doing things in the Church---& not the Church doing-things."

- a, If this be true(& I think it is) this must mean that there has really been little or no communication "breakdown" within the Church because there has never been any real "felt-need" of the Church being a "living family or unit". (OVER THE YEARS)

- b, Six years ago I stated that I would have to seek a "Gall" elsewhere because my wife & I were going to adopt a baby & weeds were growing through the floor of the old parsonage. With no ~~NO~~ building fund AN EXAMPLE (RESULTING IN GOOD) ---a parsonage was built. (& it is a nice one. cost-\$12,900)

In all of the above---I, most certainly, am not without fault. My wife went to work 5 years ago. I developed the Naselle-Chinook being served by "one" Pastor idea. My Norwegian "temper" has arisen during the past year & a half & I have not been "sweet" when "strain" developed.

May I have 2-hours with you for Chinook's sake??

P.S. The "flu" bug has been rough on my family but we all have managed to "keep going". (Locally at least. I did not make it to the Convocation) The "cold" is still with me--but manageable.

February 18, 1972

Miss Ardelle J. Ringhouse, Secretary
Naselle Lutheran Church
Naselle, Washington 98638

Dear Miss Ringhouse

Thank you very much for your letter of February 15 reminding me of the request that your congregation has made to be allowed to transfer from the Lutheran Church in America to the American Lutheran Church.

In the next few days I will be meeting with the president of the American Lutheran Church in this area, and we will be discussing this request as one of our items of interest and concern. Following that meeting, I will be in touch with you again.

I certainly was disappointed that Pastor Bruland found it desirable to resign. I, personally, had been very happy with the arrangement between the two churches and with his services.

Give my greetings to our friends in Naselle.

The Lord be with you.

A. G. Fjellman

AGF:fg

cc: Pastor Bruland

February 29, 1972

Miss Ardelle J. Ringhouse, Secretary
Naselle Lutheran Church
Naselle, Washington 98638

Dear Miss Ringhouse

A week or so ago I indicated to you that I would be meeting soon with the president of the American Lutheran Church in this area. I have done that, and he has indicated to me that he will be going to Naselle and Chinook very soon and will plan to discuss the matter of pastoral service for both congregations.

If I can be of further help, don't hesitate to write.

The Lord be with you.

A. G. Fjellman

AGF:fg

cc: Dr. Clarence Solberg
Rev. Chris J. Bruland

January 5, 1973

The Rev. Clarence Solberg, D.D.
2007 Third Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98121

Dear Dr. Solberg

At the meeting of the Executive Board of the Pacific Northwest Synod of the Lutheran Church in America held on May 12 and 13, 1972, the following action was taken:

"Moved that the transfer of the Naselle Lutheran Church, Naselle, Washington, to the North Pacific District of the American Lutheran Church be approved."

On behalf of our Pacific Northwest Synod, we pray for the continued success of the gospel ministry in Naselle, Washington that is carried out by Naselle Lutheran Church, and commend this congregation to the care and concern of the North Pacific District of the American Lutheran Church.

The Lord be with you.

A. G. Fjellman

AGF:rl